GUIDE TO THE MH1 IRAQ FILE

[The MH1 Iraq file is concerned with modern Iraq and its sedentary inhabitants. Data on the Bedouins and Kurds of Iraq will be found in the MJ4 and MA11 files. Modern Iraq is the area known in its early history as Mesopotamia. It is bordered on the east by Iran, on the south by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, on the west by Jordan and Syria and on the north by Turkey. The 1974 population estimate was 10,765,000, 75% of which is Arab. Over 95% of the population is Moslem. The capital is Baghdad. The valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are very fertile and agriculture is the chief economic activity. Iraq supplies about 80% of the world's dates. About two thirds of the population live in rural villages. Only about 20% of the arable land is actually cultivated. Crude oil accounted for 93% of Iraq's exports in 1972. Industry is poorly developed. After several centuries of competition between Turkey and Persia for rule, Iraq was under Turkish domination from 1638 until World War I. Britain was given a mandate in 1920 which it terminated in 1932. From then until 1955, Iraq was allied by treaty with Britain. Since that time, government has been quite chaotic. Since the coup d'etat of 1968 Iraq has been governed by the Socialist Party. In 1972 Iraq made a 15-year treaty of cooperation with the Soviet Union.

There are eight sources in the Iraq file, all of which were processed in 1955. These sources concentrate on economic development and political history. Many of them were written by government officials or are reports of missions investigating economic problems. 8: Campbell is an anthology of entertaining stories told by Arab tribes of the Lower Euphrates. 6: Ireland discusses British interest in Iraq and political development from 1914 to 1932. 1: Longrigg is a comprehensive account of internal and international politics, economy, and minority problems in Iraq from 1900-1950. 4: Wilson is a discussion of ethnic groups in two northern provinces. 2: Dowson is a report to the Iraqi government on land tenure. 3: Clark is a UNESCO report on education in Iraq. 5: Al Dalli is a discussion

development of industry. 7: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is a report to the Iraqi government on recommendations for economic development.]